

CH-767

1948

Vincent and Gertrude Simmons House

Marbury

Private

Erected circa 1948, the Vincent and Gertrude Simmons House is an example of a Aladdin mail-order home inspired from the Colonial Revival style. A two story, brick front-gable structure, the Vincent and Gertrude Simmons House is significant as an excellent example of the numerous Colonial Revival mail-order homes that became popular in Charles County's towns and villages during the early to mid-20th century. Vincent Simmons was an insurance agent for Monumental. The current owner, a grandson of Vincent and Gertrude Simmons, has possession of original 1948 plans with the Aladdin logo as well as photographs taken at the time of construction.

Inventory No. CH-767

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Vincent and Gertrude Simmons House
other	

2. Location

street and number	5050 Marbury Run Road	not for publication
city, town	Marbury	vicinity
county	Charles	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Gregory and Patricia Long				
street and number	5050 Marbury Run Road			telephone	301-743-3114
city, town	Marbury	state	MD	zip code	20658

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	20 p.36
city, town	La Plata	liber	2949 folio 585

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
___ district	___ public	___ agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
X building(s)	X private	___ commerce/trade	1 ___ buildings
___ structure	___ both	___ defense	___ ___ sites
___ site		X domestic	___ ___ structures
___ object		___ education	___ ___ objects
		___ funerary	1 ___ Total
		___ government	
		___ health care	
		___ industry	
		___ landscape	
		___ recreation/culture	
		___ religion	
		___ social	
		___ transportation	
		___ work in progress	
		___ unknown	
		___ vacant/not in use	
		___ other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Erected circa 1943, the Vincent and Gertrude Simmons House is an example of a Aladdin mail-order home. Following the Colonial Revival style, this 2-story brick side-gable structure includes a three-bay facade accentuated with an entry porch which shelters the principal entrance. This door features a leaded glass fanlight transom and sidelights above reeded pilasters. A shed addition extends from each eave elevation. The home has original 6/1 double-hung windows accentuated by header lintels throughout and corbelled window boxes on the second story. The watertable is defined by a row of headers. The home also includes half-round copper gutters.

The front or northwest elevation includes three second story windows. The first floor has three-part windows flanking either side of the principle entrance. The entrance is sheltered by a gable-roof porch. Moving clockwise, two second story 6/1 windows are ound on the northeast elevation above a doorway to the north and an additional window to the south. This eave elevation is divided by an exterior brick chimney with corbelled cap. Two louvered attic vents are present, one on either side of the chimney. A full-width screened porch is found on the first floor shed wing.

The rear elevation includes three second story windows. The first floor has irregular fenestration including a three-part window to the north, and moving southward, a single 6/1 window, a rear entrance door and an additional 6/1 window. A small wooden deck is found at this elevation. The southwest elevation includes a lunette louvered attic vent above two second-story windows. On the first floor, the Florida room occupies much of this elevation with the exception of a pair of 6/1 windows near the southernmost corner. The Florida Room includes a series of paired window banks.

The interior is largely unaltered and includes a center-passage plan with a large parlor on the north end running the entire length of the dwelling, and a double-pile south end including a dining room and kitchen.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1943

Architect/Builder Aladdin Homes

Construction dates 1943

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Vincent and Gertrude Simmons House is significant as an excellent example of Colonial Revival mail-order homes that became popular in Charles County during the early to mid-20th century. Adding to the site's significance is its association with the village of Marbury.

The single most important and long-lasting industry established in Charles County during this period was the naval ordnance manufacturing plant built at Mattawoman Neck in 1890. The Naval Proving Ground was moved to Mattawoman Neck when transportation from the former Proving Ground at Annapolis to the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC became too dangerous. Nearly nine hundred acres of land was purchased for the proving ground, and later supplemented by an additional ten thousand acres on Stump Neck to the south. In 1898, the Naval Powder Factory was constructed, and the first powder was manufactured in 1900. During World War I, transportation to and from the factory was improved by the construction of a railroad spur from White Plains in 1917.

Although the Proving Ground was moved to Dahlgren, Virginia in 1921, the plant continued to operate and began tests that would lead to the development of jet propulsion and rocket testing at the naval station. From the beginning, the plant and proving ground provided an important and stable center of employment for the county. During the war years, the plant expanded, requiring more laborers. The town of Indian Head grew up just opposite the gates of the installation. The Navy contributed to the housing and education of its employees and their children by building housing and a school at Indian Head.

Marbury was connected to the proving ground at first by a locally built narrow footbridge and after 1917 by a unique hand drawn footbridge that allowed coal barges to proceed upstream in Mattawoman Creek. Congressman Sydney Mudd was the driving force behind the federally funded footbridge construction stating that, "The purposes of this bridge is to afford direct and convenient communication to the government employees, for nearly 50% of them have homes on the Marbury side of the Creek. Further evidence of the impact on the proving ground to the adjoining region can be found in census records from 1890-1920. Not only was the election district of Pomomkey, including Indian Head and Marbury, the only area of growth. Between 1910 and 1920 the population nearly doubled from 1589 to 3,124. In 1920, a new census district was established in Marbury having a population of 1,392.

The village of Marbury is situated on high ground on the former plantation of the Marbury family. During the early 20th century, Marbury included a post office and barber shop as well as Twiford's Store and Lumber Yard. Most of the town residents were in some way dependent on Indian Head for their livelihood. Vincent Simmons was an insurance agent for Monumental. The current owner is the grandson of Vincent and Gertrude Simmons and has possession of original 1948 plans with the Aladdin logo as well as photographs taken at the time of construction. The property was purchased in 1947 from Daniel and Eva Davis.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.72

Acreage of historical setting 1.72

Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County property Tax Map 20, Parcel 36.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Preservation Planner

organization Charles County Planning

date 3/3/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

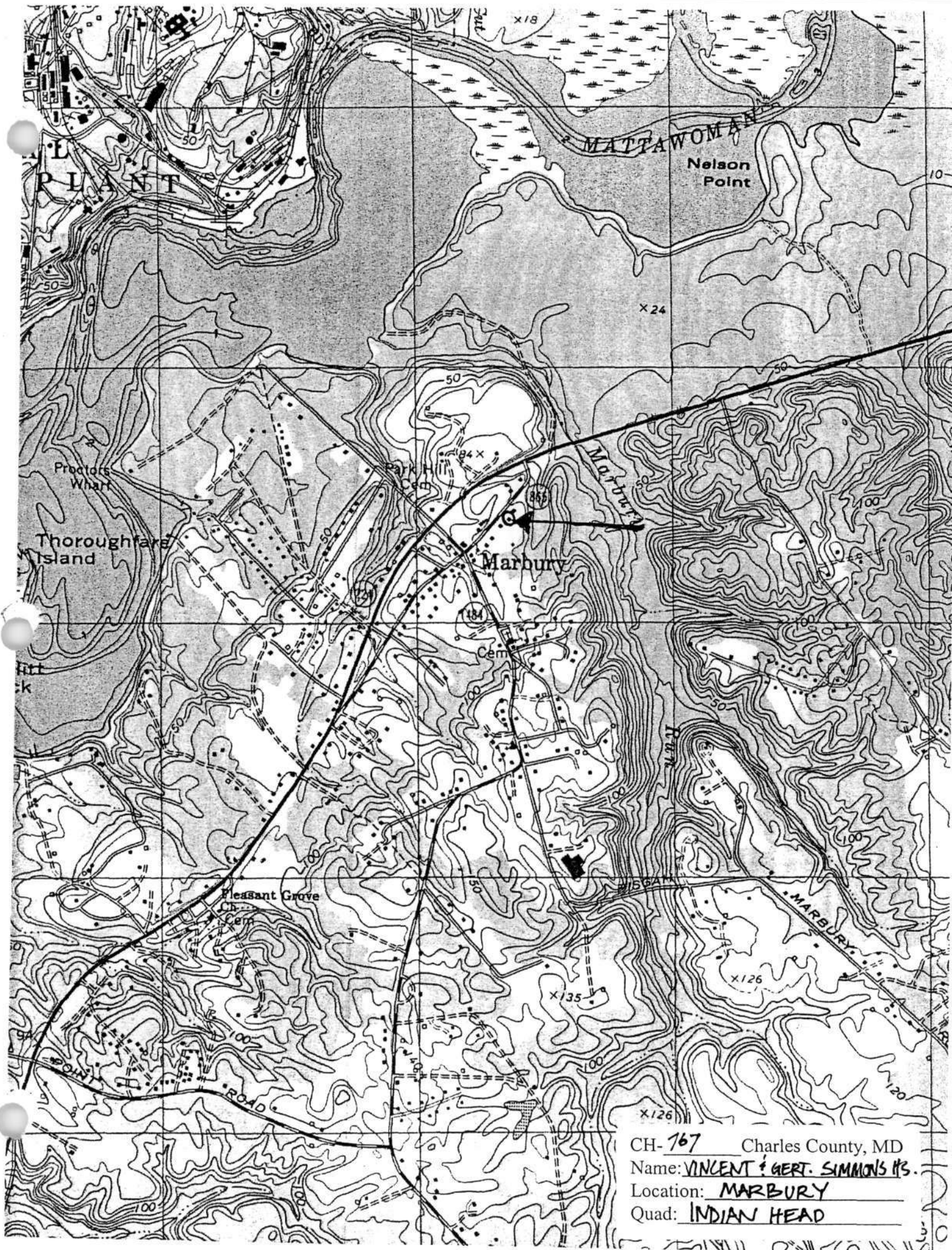
city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600



CH-167 Charles County, MD
Name: VINCENT & GERT. SIMMONS HS.
Location: MARBURY
Quad: INDIAN HEAD



CH-767

SIMMONS HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

MD SHPO

11/2002

LOOKING SE

10F4



CH 767
SIMMONS HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY
MD SHPO

11/2002
DOOR DETAIL 2044



CH 767
SIMMONS HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY
MD SHPO
11/2002
SIDE, LOOKING SW
30p4



CH 767

SIMMONS HOLE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

MD SAPO

11/2002

LOOKING N

40P4